

PLACES LINCOLN SLEPT
(ILLINOIS)

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ILLINOIS IN GENERAL

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Illinois

Places Lincoln Slept

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Lincoln's Jokes. 1867

"Can I tell you anything of Abe Lincoln? I reckon I can," said Mr. Thomas Downing of this city, a gentleman 79 years old. "I ought to know something. Abe used to make my home his stopping place when he came to Charleston. I could tell him as far as I could see him by his walk; his head would be going back and forth as though on a pivot. One little circumstance I distinctly remember to show how he appreciated a joke. At one time he and Congressman Bromwell were to make a speech in Charleston on a certain great occasion, political, of course, and early in the morning they both came to my house. It was before daylight and Abe said to me and my wife:

"We have been riding all night and are tired, and must sleep. Don't wake us up until dinner time, and don't tell anybody we are in town—not a soul."

"I went to my work as usual, but was bothered every little while by people and inquiring for Abe. He wasn't to be found, and there was no train now for him to come on. I never saw such a crowd of people before. I told them I would guarantee Lincoln would be on time. But it was all I could do to keep his presence unknown. After dinner Abe made his appearance and their cry hushed. No doubt he had been awake and laughing in his sleeve, for he was aware of the crowd's disappointment.

"Lincoln was always of even temperament, never showing anger. While he was speaking in a grove north of this city one time, a Dr. Banks, who lived here, in order to bother him, yelled out at the top of his voice:

"Mr. Lincoln, did you ever drive cattle through Charleston barefooted?"

"Yes," answered Lincoln instantly, "and I can get 20 men in this crowd to prove it."

"It is needless for me to say he never did; but he was not interrupted again while speaking by Banks.

"While Lincoln was still keeping store at Salem, Ill., he formed the acquaintance of Lawyer Logan of Springfield, who loaned him law books to read. He has often walked from Salem to Springfield and return, carrying these books, and would read one or two while walking before reaching home, so eager was he for knowledge.

Famous Illinois Tavern.

Where Lincoln, When a Circuit Riding Lawyer, Swapped Stories.

1566
With the demolition of the old Kelley tavern, torn down to make room for a barn, there passed one of the famous old hostelrys of Illinois. Built in 1839, the old tavern became the stopping place of all west bound travelers, it being the only hotel between Danville and Urbana on the state road.

For years it enjoyed great popularity, especially during its ownership by Joseph Kelley, who operated it from 1840 until 1864. During the '50s it was the regular stopping place of the old time circuit riding lawyers, among whom were Abraham Lincoln and Judge David Davis. Both Lincoln and Davis were warm friends of Kelley, whose ready wit and great fund of stories made him a favorite with both men. Kelley was a great story teller, and during the months intervening between the April and September terms of court he searched assiduously for "new stories to tell Abe."

Often Lincoln's coming, being heralded about the surrounding country, drew scores of farmers to the hotel, and not infrequently residents of Urbana drove down to enjoy the contest between the two great story tellers. However well equipped with new material was Mr. Kelley he always found himself vanquished by Mr. Lincoln, whose fund of anecdotes seemed inexhaustible. Old residents say that the two champions frequently told stories almost all night, Lincoln sitting in an immense armchair, with wide rockers and a buffalo robe cushion, known to the household as "Abe's chair." The old chair is still in the possession of the Kelley family, one of its most cherished heirlooms.

The old tavern played an important part in the social life of the community. Here during the winter months assembled all the young people for miles around to dance and enjoy themselves. In the yard were held the turkey shoots on Thanksgiving and Christmas, when the pioneers assembled to prove their wonderful skill with their old muzzle loading firearms. Whisky on these occasions flowed freely, and some famous fights have occurred about the old building, but for the most part the early settler was good natured, even in his cups, and no serious damage was done in these encounters.

With the coming of the railroads and the passing of the stage coach the old tavern suffered a lamentable falling off in business, and after a precarious existence it was closed and the building became the home of a tenant farmer. Later it was used for the storage of grain and farm implements. Falling into decay, it has at last been torn down, after an existence of many of its timbers

Carlinville

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S FAMOUS SPEECH

Delivered in Carlinville, August
31, 1858.

Lincoln Was Guest of General
Palmer—Spoke in Morton's
Grove. 8-11-1926

Carlinville (Ill.) Democrat
For some weeks we have been printing stories in The Democrat concerning Abraham Lincoln's visit to Carlinville when he made his now famous speech. These articles have created much interest and many inquiries and favorable comment have been received.

In our issue of July 28th, reference was made to the fact that Lincoln's speech appeared in The Carlinville Democrat, Sept. 2, 1858. The notice of his coming appeared in this paper in August 26, of the same year. He spoke in the afternoon of August 31st.

As has been previously stated, the place where Lincoln spoke in this city was referred to in The Democrat as "Morton's Grove." This was the grove of forest trees, principally oaks, which stood on the corner lot where the Methodist church now stands. Since the fact appeared in this paper stating that Lincoln's speech was in the old files, we have had requests to publish it and it appears in this issue. The style of newspaper reporting was somewhat different at that early day than now, because whoever wrote the account of Lincoln's address made no mention whatever of who introduced the speaker. The presumption is that it was General John M. Palmer, but that fact is not stated. Mr. Lincoln was an intimate friend of General Palmer and that the latter was one of his strong supporters is well known to all readers of history.

Mr. Lincoln's speech occupied a space in The Democrat of about a column and a half. It was set in what is known to printers as "six point" type, which is quite small. This type is not generally used by country papers at the present time, but type larger and more easily read, is used. As will be noted, Lincoln's speech as it appears in this issue occupies two columns.

We also print a brief review of General Palmer's speech, who followed Lincoln on the platform. The Democrat of September 2, 1858, explains the reason for not giving General Palmer's speech in full. Mr. Lincoln's speech follows. The capitalization, punctuation and the exact language used are given just as it appeared in this paper in 1858:

Agreeable to arrangements Mr. Lincoln arrived here on the down train Tuesday morning, and was quietly conducted to the American House, it having been previously arranged by his friends that no sign of man-worship should take place, and no gaudy display be made to captivate the crowd (a la Douglas)—but that the people and Lincoln should be left perfectly free to regulate their own concerns in their own way. All other speakers looked for unexpectedly disappointed us. The meeting was quite large—many gentlemen estimate it at 1,000 legal voters—and we doubt if Douglas can get a larger number of men together even with the aid of the circus.

At 3 o'clock this large crowd of citizens assembled in Morton's Grove, where Mr. Lincoln entertained them in an honest, logical and telling speech. He said the question is often asked, why this fuss about niggers? It is dictated that their position is a small matter, but let us inquire whether it is or not. His speech at the June convention had been much commented upon, and he read an extract from it, and showed wherein it had been misrepresented as to the ultimate triumph or extinction of slavery; that, although the agitation of the question was commenced in '54 with the avowed object of putting a stop to it, yet, the agitation was still increasing. The policy then adopted professed to leave the subject to the people of the territories and save politicians further trouble. Buchanan and Douglas have often promised us that this agitation would cease, but it is still going on, and only last winter was the hottest of any time yet.

The measures of '50 settled it for a time, only to be reopened in '54 in a worse and more malignant form in a territory where it had been previously at rest. Clay, Webster, Calhoun and Benton have gone but we still have the slavery agitation, and will have it till a more conservative and less aggressive party gains power. The north is not alone to blame—for churches and families divided upon this question—is it then a little thing?

In view of its importance and aggressive nature, I think it must come to a crisis—that it will become national by court verdicts or local by the popular voice. We have no idea

of interfering with it in any manner I am standing up to our bargain for its maintenance where it lawfully exists. Our fathers restricted its spread and stopped the importation of negroes, with the hope that it would remain in a dormant condition till the people saw fit to emancipate the negroes. There is no allusion to slavery in the constitution—and Madison says it was omitted that future generations might not know such a thing ever existed—and that the constitution might yet be a 'national chart of freedom.' And Keitt of S. C., once admitted that nobody ever thought it would exist to this day.

If placed in the former attitude we should have peace. But it is now advancing to become lawful everywhere. The Nebraska bill introduced this era—and it was gotten up by a man who twice voted for the

Wilmot Proviso and the extension of the Missouri Compromise line to the Pacific. This change in our national policy is decided to be constitutional—although the court would not decide the only question before them—whether Dred Scott was a slave or not—and did decide, too, that a territorial legislature cannot exclude slavery in behalf of the people, and if their premises be correct a state cannot exclude it—for they tell us that the negro is property anywhere in the light that horses are property, and if the constitution gives the master a right of property in negroes above the jurisdiction of the territorial laws, enacted in the sovereignty of the people—it only requires another case and another favorable decision from the same court to make the rights of property alike in states as well as territories, and that by virtue of the constitution and in disregard of local laws to the contrary—Buchanan takes this position now. Sustain these men and negro equality will be abundant, as every white laborer will have occasion to regret when he is elbowed from his plow or his anvil by slave niggers.

Douglas insists that I am in favor of perfect uniformity in the institutions of all the states. I believe in their right to do just as they please in this matter. But he is not quite so vain as to say that the good man uttered a falsehood when he said, 'A house divided against itself cannot stand.' Does he believe this thing will always stand as it now is—neither expand or diminish?

In '32, I voted for Henry Clay, in '36 for the Hugh L. White ticket, in '40 for 'Tip and Tyler.' In '44 I made the last great effort for 'Old Harry of the West' with my friend there, Dr. Heaton. But we got gloriously whipped. Taylor was elected in '48, and we fought nobly for Scott in '52.

But now Douglas snatches the robes of Clay and dubs me an abolitionist! How do the principles of the two men agree. Clay always opposed the rightfulness of slavery—Douglas always took the opposite, or kept mum. I can express all my views on the slavery question by quotations from Henry Clay. Doesn't this look like we are akin?

Douglas tries to make capital by charges of negro equality against me. My speeches have been printed and before the country for some time on this question, and Douglas knows the utter falsity of such a charge. To prove it Mr. L. read from a speech of his at Peoria in '54 in reply to Douglas as follows:

"Shall we free them and make them politically and socially our equals? MY OWN FEELINGS WILL NOT ADMIT OF THIS, and if they would the feelings of the great mass of white people would not. Whether this accords with strict justice or not is not the sole question. A universal feeling, whether well or ill-founded, cannot safely be disregarded. We cannot then make them our equals * * * When they remind us of their constitutional rights I acknowledge them fully and freely, and I would give them any legislation for the recovery of their fugitives, which would not be more likely, in the stringency of its provisions, to take a man into slavery than our ordinary

criminal laws are to hang an innocent man."

There is no reason in favor of sending slavery to Kansas that might not be adduced in support of the African slave trade. Each are demanded by the profitableness of the traffic thus made in opening a new slave mart, and not from the rightfulness of it. They are upon a common basis, and should be alike condemned. The compromises of the constitution we must all stand by, but where is the justness of extending the institution to compete with white labor and thus to degrade it. Is it not rather our duty to make labor more respectable by preventing all black competition, especially in the territories. Mr. L. then read from another speech of his in '54, showing that Douglas there attempted to gain the public favor by pandering to the prejudices of the masses, in disregard of truth. Negroes have natural rights however, as other men have, although they cannot enjoy them here, and even Taney once said that 'the Declaration of Independence was broad enough for all men.' But though it does not declare that all men are equal in their attainments or social position, yet no sane man will attempt to deny that the African upon his own soil has all the natural rights that instrument vouchsafes to all mankind. It has proved a stumbling block to tyrants, and ever will, unless brought into contempt by its pretended friends. Douglas says no man can defend it except on the hypothesis that it only referred to British white subjects, and that no other white men are in-

cluded—that it does not speak to the down trodden of all nations German, French, Spanish, etc. simply meant that the English Laborer born equal and endowed by his Creator with certain natural or inalienable rights among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that no man could justly deprive him of it without committing an injury against himself. Are Jeffersonian Democrats willing to have this gem taken from the magna charta of human liberty in this shameful manner? Or will they maintain that their declaration of equality of natural rights among all nations is correct? No!

Douglas pretends to be horrified at the amalgamation, yet had he not opened the way for slavery in Kansas, there have been any amalgamation there? If you keep the two separate is there any danger of amalgamation? Is not slavery, if a great source of it? You know Virginia has more mulattoes than the northern state! Douglas says he does not care whether they vote every up or down in Kansas; he will submit it to this audience which is the most favorable to amalgamation. He who would not raise his finger to keep it out, or I who would give a vote and use my lawful means to prevent its extension. Clay and other men were ever ready to express their abhorrence of slavery—but we in the north dare not use his noble language when he said, to force its perpetration and extension you must muzzle the cannon that annually proclaim its certainty, and repress all tendencies of the human heart to justice and mercy. We can no longer express our admiration for the Declaration of Independence without their petty spite.

And it is thus they are fast bringing that sacred instrument into contempt. These men desire that slavery should be perpetual and that we should foster all lawful moves toward emancipation, and to gain their ends will endeavor to impress upon the public mind that the negro is no longer a man, and even upon his own soil has no rights which white men are bound to respect. Douglas declares that we shall bow to all decisions: but the courts are to decide upon political subjects, how long will it be till the person's fears of a political despotism are realized? He denounces all proposed to the Dred Scott opinion in disregard to his former opposition to real decisions and the fact that he got his title of Judge by breaking down a decision of our supreme court. He has an object in these denunciations, and is it not to prepare the minds for acquiescence in the next decision declaring slavery to exist in the states? If Douglas can make you believe that slavery is a sacred right—if we are to swallow Dred Scottism that the right of property in negroes is not confined to those states where it is established by local law—if by special sophisms he can make you believe that no nation except the English are born equal and are not entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, upon their own soil, or when they are not constitutionally divested of the rights given to them to enjoy the fruits of their own labor, then may we despair of the universality of freedom, or the efficacy of those sacred principles enunciated by our fathers—and give in our adhesion to the perpetuation and unlimited extension of slavery. Judge Palmer being loudly called

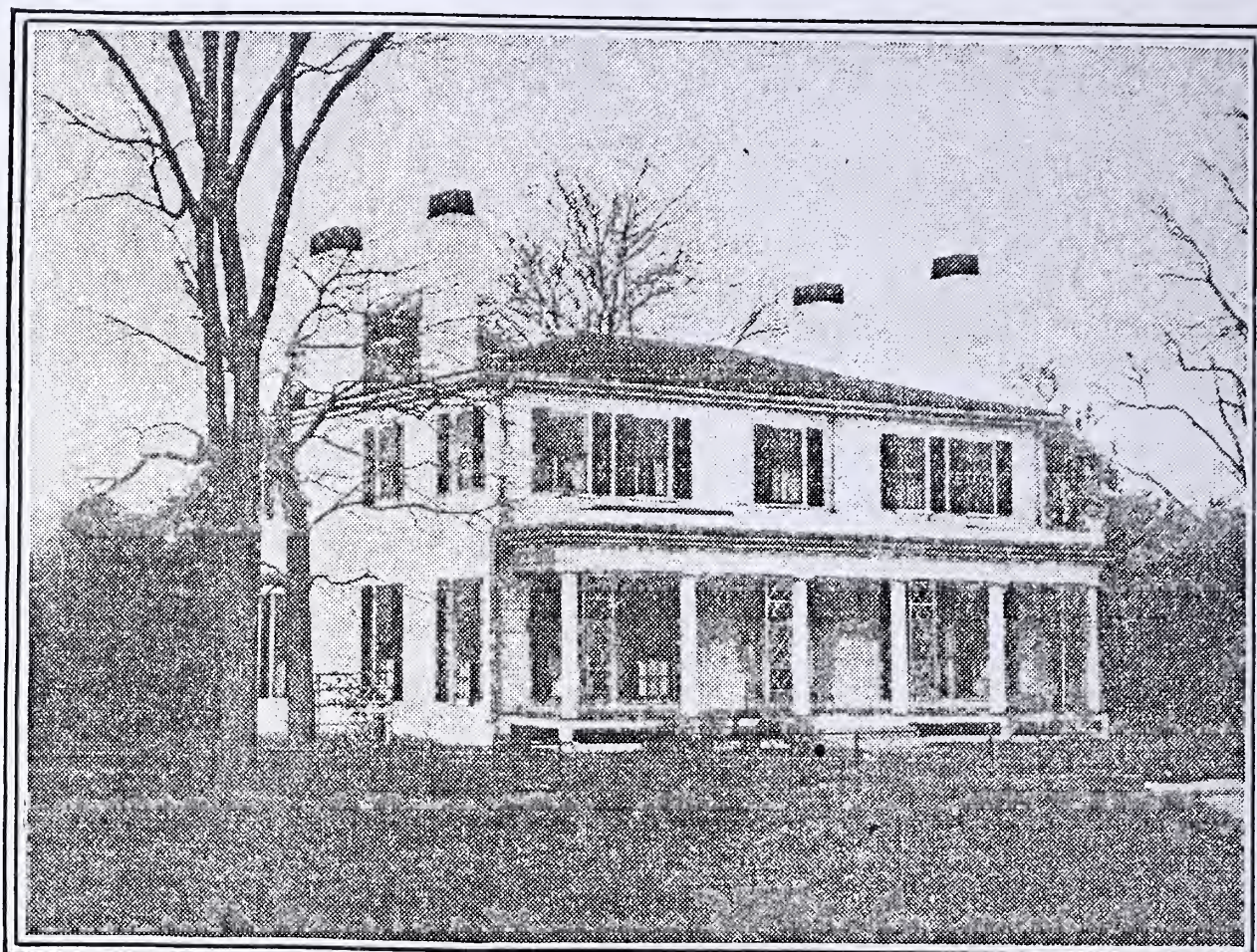
for, came forward and made one of his usual side-splitting speeches dealing terrible blows to the bogus Democracy in every sentence. He said it was hardly fair to hit a man like Douglas, that was down already. For the poor fellow hasn't a plank left to hold him up, and is compelled to cry "negro equality," etc., to draw attention from his own helpless condition. But he believed that any man must be "as impudent as the devil" to repeat the charge after hearing Lincoln's speech. True, they have no other defence than to cry "abolitionists" for they cannot meet our platform—they cannot escape the odium of the slavery agitation or the peril in which they have brought the Union, and they cry "abolitionists." If you tell them that Kansas was already free, and their action has only introduced negroes there to compete with free labor, they cry "abolitionists." And who is it that prejudices the South against us, by calling Americans, Republicans and free soil Democrats, Abolitionists? Is it not Douglas, who is now before you for trial? Shall he be allowed to escape by charging negro equality upon the same voters he has heretofore denounced in the senate and out of it as abolitionists? Will these men, thus denounced, help to hoist their calumniator into power, while he taunts them with negro equality? In '54 he declared that the American party had perjured themselves—do they now believe he spoke the truth, or will they go to the polls and help brand him as a liar? Are you all

ready to say that Douglas agitation is better than the compromise rendered sacred by the efforts of Clay, Webster and Benton?

Douglas endorses the Dred Scott decision because it says he is better than a negro. Gentlemen, did you ever have any doubts on that subject? Was it necessary for the court to tell you that you were better than a negro? Douglas says we must submit to the decisions of the court without a murmur. Suppose the abolitionists were next to get possession of the court and decide that negroes were better than white men, would you submit? (Cries of no! no!) Well, Douglas would have to, for he is committed to all its dicta.

We have not space to follow Mr Palmer though his able speech. The meeting adjourned with three cheers for Abe Lincoln, three for Palmer, and three for the Union ticket, and a little one from the outside of the ground by the Democratic convention, for the mulatto ticket.

Dorchester



The House Where Abraham Lincoln Spent the Night of Sept. 18, 1848, When He Spoke in Dorchester at Richmond Hall. The House Is at the Corner of Washington and Sanford Streets, Lower Mills.

Boston Eve Transcript 2-11-1928

almost for the redemption of the
shire.

WHIG MEETING AT DORCHESTER.—We are glad to learn that the Hon. Abram Lincoln, of Illinois, and the Hon. Geo Lunt, of Boston, will address the citizens of Dorchester, on Monday evening next, Sept. 18th, at Richmond Hall, in that town.

AN UNSUCCESSFUL FORGFRY.—Yesterday boy called at

Boston Daily Evening 9-16-1848

Historic James Long House, Visited by Lincoln, Gives Way to Progress

BY JOHN DRURY.

Wreckers today began tearing down the old James Long house, an historic landmark at 2432 Cottage Grove avenue, where Abraham Lincoln once visited.

The quaint structure has been a familiar sight on Cottage Grove avenue for seventy-five years. Two generations of street car riders have passed up and down before the little building and wondered about it. Situated some distance back from the sidewalk and surrounded by factories and low warehouses the dwelling has a precivil war appearance about it which arouses curiosity.

A Throwback to '50s.

It is small and low in contrast to the big buildings adjoining it on every hand. A wooden veranda on three sides of the building shows that it is a survival of the '50s and '60s, when homes had verandas and people had time to sit on them. The open timber roof comes to a point in a little low turret, and under the eaves narrow, many-paned windows look out. Today the dwelling has a general air of sagginess and decay.

According to Miss Caroline M. McIlvaine, former librarian of the Chicago Historical society, this house was owned by James Long, who bought it from a Frenchman in 1850. Long was a public figure during precivil war days in Chicago. He bought the house because it was "out in the country."

The location was idyllic. Cottonwood trees swayed in the wind and the sun sparkled on the waters of Lake Michigan near by. Carriages drove by on the way from the outlying village of Hyde Park to the city on the north, drove by on Cottage Grove road.

Forced Lincoln to Stoop.

Here, then, James Long invited his friend Abraham Lincoln, the tall, lanky lawyer from downstate.

History reports that Lincoln had to stoop to enter the low doorways of the Long house. It is further said that he sat on the front porch and chatted with Mr. Long and also in

the front room, before an ornate marble fireplace.

This fireplace was selected by representatives of the Chicago Historical society for safe keeping. Officials of the society visited the building a few days ago in search of Lincoln relics. They also selected a low archway over the entrance from the front parlor to the dining room.

Another visitor to the Long house in the precivil war days, according to Miss McIlvaine, was Senator Stephen A. Douglas, "the Little Giant," whose home and estate was located on Cottage Grove avenue a mile south of the Long house, at what is now 35th street. The Douglas estate still survives in Woodland park, a little obscure rustic park at Cottage Grove avenue and 35th street, which "the Little Giant" bequeathed to the people of Illinois.

Proposed as Museum.

The present occupant of the Long house, John Burke, suggested that the city buy the house and use it as a civil-war museum for the coming Century of Progress fair in 1933. Another person interested in the preservation of the dwelling is Miss Marion Neville, a writer on Chicago historical subjects and member of the editorial staff of the American Library association. She suggested that it be preserved as a Lincoln museum for the benefit of Negroes in the south side.

"It is a perfect example of early nineteenth century American domestic architecture," said Miss Neville. "And for that reason if for no other should be preserved. In addition, it is the only building still standing that links modern Chicago with the Chicago of precivil war days. The expense involved in its rehabilitation would not be great and the satisfaction derived from it would make it worth the effort."

Chicago Landmark Victim of Progress

Chicago, Aug. 14.—Wrecking crews are today tearing down the old James Long house, a historic landmark where Abraham Lincoln once lived.

A familiar sight to Chicagoans for 75 years, it is situated some distance back from the sidewalk and surrounded by factories and low warehouses. The old dwelling house has a pre-Civil war appearance about it that attracts the curious who happen to pass by.

This house was owned by James Long who bought it from a Frenchman in 1850, according to Miss Carolina M. McIlvaine, former librarian of the Chicago Historical society. Long was a public figure during the pre-war days in Chicago, and he bought the residence because it was "out in the country."

Here it was that James Long invited his friend Abraham Lincoln the tall, lanky lawyer from downstate. History records that Lincoln had to stoop to enter the low doorways of the house. It is also recorded that Lincoln used to enjoy sitting on the broad verandas or else to sit and chat with Long before the spacious fireplace in the living room.

TAMPA (FLA.) TIMES

Tuesday, August 19, 1929

Where Lincoln and Douglas Visited.

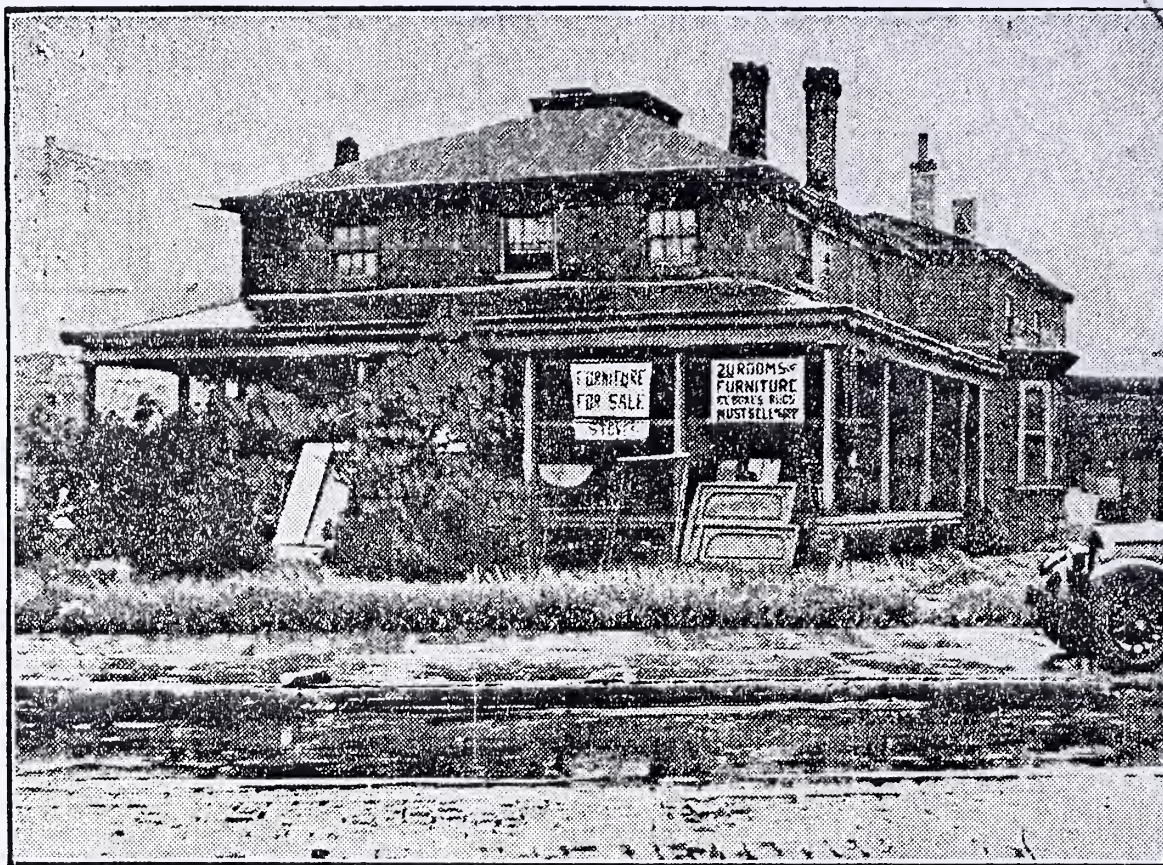
From the Chicago Daily News.

Wreckers have begun tearing down the old James Long house, a historic landmark of Cottage Grove avenue, where Abraham Lincoln visited. The quaint structure has been a familiar sight on Cottage Grove avenue for seventy-five years. Two generations of street-car riders have passed up and down before the little building and wondered about it. Situated some distance back from the sidewalk and surrounded by factories and low warehouses, the dwelling has a pre-civil war appearance which arouses considerable curiosity.

According to Miss Caroline M. McIlvaine, former librarian of the Chicago Historical Society, this house was owned by James Long, who bought it from a Frenchman in 1850. Long was a public figure during pre-civil war days in Chicago. He bought the house because it was "out in the country." Here James Long invited his friend Abraham Lincoln, the tall, lanky lawyer from down State. History reports that Lincoln had to stoop to enter the low doorways of the Long house. It is further said that he sat on the front porch and chatted with Mr. Long and also in the front room before an ornate marble fireplace. This fireplace was selected by representatives of the Chicago Historical Society for safekeeping.

Another visitor to the Long house in the pre-civil war days, according to Miss McIlvaine, was Senator Stephen A. Douglas, "the Little Giant," whose home and estate was located on Cottage Grove avenue a mile south of the Long house. The Douglas estate still survives in Woodland Park, a little obscure rustic park at Cottage Grove avenue and Thirty-fifth street, which "the Little Giant" bequeathed to the people of Illinois. Miss Marion Neville, a writer on Chicago historical subjects, suggests that it be preserved as a museum. "It is a perfect example of early nineteenth century American domestic architecture," said Miss Neville. "And for that reason if for no other should be preserved. In addition, it is the only building still standing that links modern Chicago with the Chicago of the days before the civil war." Aug 16 1929

"Long" House where Lincoln Visited



HOUSE LINCOLN VISITED PASSES. Wreckers yesterday began tearing down the historic old James Long house at 2492 Cottage Grove avenue, which has been a Chicago landmark for seventy-five years. Abraham Lincoln once was entertained beneath its roof and many notables have been visitors there.
[By a staff photographer.]

CHICAGO ILL NEWS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1929,

Lin. visited

The 70-year-old Latham home, Lincoln, is being torn down to make way for four modern homes. It was built by the late Col. Robert Latham, one of the founders of the city of Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln, U. S. Grant and the late Governor Richard Oglesby were frequent guests in this home.

State Capital News 7-2-51

THE SPELL OF LINCOLN

(Rachael Jane Harris)

Sullivan Int. Daily Times Feb 12 1926



OLD BRUCE HOMESTEAD

Home of Major Bruce of Bruceville where Abraham Lincoln stayed all night

Less than an hour's ride by motor from Sullivan brings us to the pretty village of Bruceville, Knox county. And here you may visit the old home of Major Bruce, for whom the town was named early in the 19th century. The house now shelters the fifth generation of the family and is probably next to the Old Harrison house at Vincennes in age, in this state. It stands on the brow of a hill, just off the main street that goes through the town. And in this house Abraham Lincoln spent the night as a guest of Major Bruce. He came horse-back, (probably by way of Vincennes) to make a speech in behalf of Henry Clay in his campaign in the

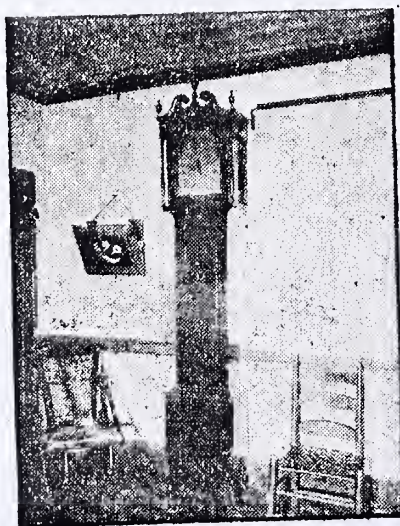
early '40's. Lincoln was an ardent admirer of Henry Clay. The corner of the room is pointed out where Lincoln slept, as a sacred spot.

The same fireplace still warms the room and casts flickering shadows athwart the dim room. The walls are immensely thick, making deep window ledges. Some of the old furniture is still in use. As was the custom, the great big fireplace is in the kitchen. One can go inside of it, and almost stand erect. Here's where the breakfast for the 17 children as well as the noted guest of Major and Mrs. Bruce was prepared.

The exact spot is pointed out where Lincoln was "lifted" to his horse at the stile by Major Bruce, while one of the bigger boys held the animal, another placed his great, warm shawl around his shoulders and he was off! One sees also the place where the old school house stood, and the spot where Lincoln spoke. But the speech! How interesting to read that speech! But doubtless, it was not published unless, by chance, the Vincennes Sun had extracts.

The Lincoln family had stayed all night in Vincennes about 1830, on their trek to Illinois from Spencer County, Indiana, and Abe spent hours at the printing-office. They had moved here from Kentucky when Abe was about seven years old, and now he was nineteen, a grown man! Ready to begin his matchless career.

And thus his formative years were
(Continued on page 4, Col 1)



Clock of Major Bruce which stood in the old home more than 100 years.

spent on Hoosier soil, the important years of his life and historians claim that Lincoln so considered it. Here, he lost his beloved mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who is buried in Spencer County, Indiana. Here he lost his only sister, Sarah Lincoln Grigsby (whose family was related to the Sullivan County Grigsby's). She, too, is buried near the mother. Lincoln never ceased grieving over the loss of his mother and sister. "All that I am I owe to my angel mother" he oft repeated in later years. He, later, loved his step-mother, too, obeyed and respected her, but never ceased idolizing Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

All his life he was given to spells of sadness, giving up, as it were, to his grief and seeking relief only in hours of utter loneliness and abandonment to grief.

Five women played an important part in his life and for four of these he grieved greatly. Nancy Hanks and his step-mother, his sister, Sarah, his first sweetheart, Ann Rutledge,

whom he met and loved in Illinois and who died a few days before their marriage, and Mary Todd Lincoln, his wife whom he adored and who outlived him, dying of a broken heart. She never wholly recovered from the shock and tragedy of his death, dying in a private sanitarium not far from Chicago, several years later.

Three states claim Abraham Lincoln. Kentucky, his birthplace, has honored him by building a great memorial in marble and stone over the log-cabin in which he was born. Illinois, where he lived in manhood's years and where he is buried, worships the soil wherein his dust reposes under a magnificent monument at Springfield, but it remains yet for Indiana to so honor him and portray his great character to all succeeding generations. This will be done, of course, ere many years.

Lincoln, the lovable, the sad, the patient, the humorous story-teller, the keen politician, the statesman, the dutiful son, the kind father, the loving sweetheart and husband, the soldier, the orator, the country lawyer, the unschooled farmer's boy, the master of English, the rail-splitter, the man who never wilfully hurt a person or thing by word or deed, becomes the great grief-stricken President! This son of the hills, this colossal figure of the century, a shy, timid and unassuming person, who had less than six months of schooling, became the leader of congress and the savior of his country. His personality will never die! He will always lead men and nations to higher things.

When the assassin's bullet laid him low, it was prophetic insight in Secretary Stanton's statement, with sincere sorrow in his voice when taking a last look at his sad, patient face, "He now belongs to the ages!"

Lincoln's spell will always hover over America. Lincoln, the unfathomable!

Lincoln Stopped at This House, Formerly a Hotel



It was in this house that Abraham Lincoln, it is related, had occasionally stopped. More than 75 years old, the house now stands at 601 North Lee street but formerly stood on the present site of the Illinois hotel and was a hotel at that time. It is now owned by John F. Baker, 603 East Locust street.

Pantagraph Photos.

BLOOMINGTON, ILL. PANTAGRAPH
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1929.

Tavern Being Torn Down

30

Shelbyville Ill., Feb. 5—Within a few days a landmark that has treasured as a place sacred to the memory of Abraham Lincoln is to be no more. The Lincoln hotel, formerly the Tallman tavern, of Shelbyville, is being torn down to make way for a filling station.

Just when the tavern was built is not known. It is known to have been earlier than 1849. It was in this hostelry that Abe Lincoln, when as a rising young lawyer he rode the circuit horseback, generally with four or five other lawyers and often in the company of the presiding judge, stopped for meals and lodging.

Remembered Lincoln

Cyrus Tallman was proprietor of the tavern in those days. His daughter, Kate then a girl, waited table. In later years this daughter became Mrs. Kate Beem, whose death occurred two years ago.

In her later years Mrs. Beem was fond of recalling Lincoln's visits to her father's tavern. "He always had a kind word and was a true gentleman," she said.

In the fifties many of the lawyers engaged in practise in the circuit were in the habit of passing the greater part of their nights in the tavern drinking and playing cards. But not so with Lincoln. He would excuse himself, take his book and read, often into the morning hours.

Standing in 1849

Mrs. Martha Rice, who last Wednesday celebrated her 97th birthday believes the tavern to be nearly 100 years old.

I was born in Columbia, Md., on Jan. 23, 1833, and came to Shelbyville as a girl of 16 in 1849. When I arrived in Shelbyville the place was a village of a few houses. The Tallman hotel, later the Lincoln hotel, stood where it now stands and even then appeared to have been built a number of years earlier."

A FARMHOUSE LINCOLN KNEW TO BE A MEMORIAL TO HIM

ILLINOIS is about to add another to the country's increasing number of Lincoln shrines. On the old Circuit Road between Decatur and Springfield stands a farmhouse pointed to visitors as a place where Lincoln frequently stopped. Now Macon County, in which it is situated, has announced its intention of acquiring the property and preserving it as a memorial. This project was undertaken last year in commemoration of the county's 100th anniversary.

Warnick Tavern, as the farmhouse is called, is built sturdily of native walnut and oak. Its three dormer windows look out over the long, pillared front porch with as much assurance as they did a century ago. This part of the house, shaded by

elms, is little changed since Lincoln's time. The house was there when the Lincolns first went to Illinois to settle on the land selected for them by John Hanks, on the Sangamon River.

The Warnicks, industrious, friendly folk, with many acres to farm and manage, were glad enough to avail themselves of the services of their young neighbor, and so he found work there, plowing, planting and harvesting. When noon came he would spend his dinner hour under the elms, it is said, reading.

Lincoln split rails and did other chores for the Warnicks and so earned enough homespun from Mrs. Warnick to make his Winter suit. Fourteen hundred rails split is what a pair of jean breeches cost in 1830.

W. J. Davis

2/22/30

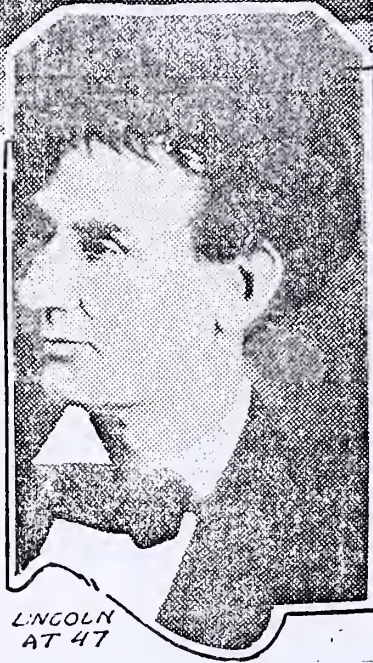
Motorists Dine Today in Mansion Where Abraham Lincoln Often Ate



AN ILLINOIS SHRINE

Motorists on Illinois Highway No. 4, between Chicago and St. Louis, see an old-fashioned signboard in Lincoln, Ill., proclaiming the Latham tea room, but few realize it identifies a home where Abraham Lincoln visited often as the guest of Colonel Robert Latham, whose son, William, owns the mansion today and presides, with his wife, over the tables where casual tourists are welcome to sit and hear countless unprinted stories of the Emancipator. The great historic mansion is a treasure house of relics pertaining to the martyred president who christened the townsite by breaking a watermelon on a rock.

In the house is a massive rosewood bed in which both Lincoln and Grant slept. On one wall hangs the original plat of the town, with the name written in by Lincoln after he had consented to christen it.



LINCOLN
AT 47

FAIRFIELD IA LEDGER
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1931

Chicago To Lose Lincoln Shrine

Chicago—The cradle of the Lincoln-Douglass debates is to become a parking lot. The old Tremont House, no longer worth its space, is to be pulled down beginning this month.

The bronze tablets that told the part played by the hotel in history have been removed to safety. Beneath these appear still earlier tablets noting that the hotel was established the year Chicago was incorporated and rebuilt three times after repeated destruction by fire.

It was the Tremont House of 1850 that helped make history. Standing on its iron balcony, Stephen A. Douglas delivered a speech which struck fire in a down-state lawyer standing in the crowd in the street below. His hearer, Abraham Lincoln, did not answer that day, but the next night he mounted the balcony and talked to the people. Soon after, he went to his room (he was a guest at the Tremont House) and penned the challenge to Douglas that launched the famous debates.

LANCASTER KY. RECORD (m.k.)
MAR. 12, 1931

M16

721 W. Pleasant Street,
Freeport, Illinois.
November 28, 1933.

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Sir:

Thank you for letter of November 23. I appreciate your offer to keep me informed about celebrations of Lincoln's 125th Anniversary, and will be very glad to receive copy of LINCOLN LORE for December 4 which you suggest sending. Thank you.

Do you know anything about the occasion mentioned in a recent clipping as "the Dad Joe Tavern where once our illustrious President Abraham Lincoln spent the night?" It is in the vicinity of Walnut, Illinois and near the community centering in the Red Oak Church. The clipping was sent me by a friend whose sister lives in that neighborhood. I would like to learn when and why Lincoln was there, or at least to verify the statement of his being there, and to know about the tavern itself if of importance. The above quotation is all I have on it. The clipping is a newspaper report of a recent occurrence "within a few paces" of the tavern, and the Lincoln story is evidently an accepted fact in that community. I thank you for whatever you think best to let me have on this.

Sincerely yours,

Ethel Kay Wood

Ethel Kay Wood.

Mrs. James E. Wood,
721 W. Pleasant St.,
Freeport, Illinois.

st env encl

Lincoln Legend Clings to Inn; Curious Plague Mr. Way

Chicago Daily News 2/17/37

"Is this where Lincoln really slept? And did he truly touch this door-knob? Was this the floor he stood on?"

To all such questions the laconic reply of John O. Way, owner of the Castle Inn on Ogden avenue, is simply: "I don't know. I wasn't 'round here then."

But a legend clings to the old frame building, sometimes called the Lincoln Tavern, that sets below the level of the highway on the northeast skirts of Hinsdale. A legend, that for all its possible foundation on fact, could not, if it were fiction, be dislodged by all the affidavits in Christendom. Abraham Lincoln spent the night there in 1858 and gave a speech in the ballroom on the second floor, regardless of what the scholars may say.

Fables Fine—Sometimes.

Fables are fine, says Mr. Way, restorer of antique furniture, but when a man tries to conduct a business surrounded by one, it can become a nuisance. He wishes to make it plain that he is not the custodian of a public museum. Each time the front door opens, jangling the sleigh bells above the sill, it interrupts his work on a 100-year old harpsichord.

Once a woman's club drove the 15 miles from Chicago to visit the Lincoln "shrine." Mr. Way believes that, becoming slightly confused, they thought themselves at Salem, Ill., or possibly at the Pre-emption House in Naperville.

"That solemn they were you'd have thought he [Lincoln] was stretched out in the next room," says Mr. Way, caressing the furniture in mock reverence.

Mr. Way Knows the Answers.

"Is that the original wall paper?" runs the one frequent question.

"I hope not," is Mr. Way's stock reply as he tries politely to cut the tour short so he can get back to work.

He bought the Castle Inn two years ago. It had been vacant for 12 years. For 65 years before that one family had owned it, operating a tavern during most of that period. The house register, supposed to have borne Lincoln's signature, is, unfortunately, lost, says Mr. Way, and the last person who could have witnessed his presence here is dead.

Dance Originator Born There.

One fact firmly established about the old tavern is generally overlooked by the sightseers. It was the birthplace of Loie Fuller, originator of the Flame and Serpent dances which thrilled Paris audiences at the Folies Bergeres before 1900.

She who became the close friend of Queen Marie of Rumania was born January, 1870, in a small downstairs room. Her father, because it was bitter cold in his own

farmhouse, brought his wife to the tavern, the warmest place in Fullersburg.

Mr. Way Has a Business.

Between visits from historical societies, students writing Lincoln themes and Scouts on field trips, Mr. Way cleans old rosewood mirrors, repairs grandfather clocks and renovates walnut dressers.

"No, I don't mind taking a little time to show folks around," said Mr. Way, returning to his shop. "But a man has got to run his business."

Living with a Lincoln legend obviously has its drawbacks.

Lincoln in Evanston

By JAMES TAFT HATFIELD

The following article by Dr. Hatfield, vice-president of the historical society, appeared in the December issue of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society. [2 ill-illustrations]

Two recent letters to a Chicago newspaper concerning Abraham Lincoln's visit to Evanston in 1860 have darkened counsel by words without knowledge: one (a fairly good account of the chief facts) stated that the house where Lincoln spent the night was still standing on Elmwood avenue; the other (apparently emanating from some congenital and irreclaimable skeptic) denied flatly that Lincoln had ever been an overnight guest in any Evanston home.

The actual circumstances concerning this visit are as fully recorded and documented as the dates of the surrender of Fort Sumter or the Declaration of Independence. In 1914, J. Seymour Currey, president of the Evanston Historical Society, published an admirable monograph, *Abraham Lincoln's Visit to Evanston in 1860*, which is a model of exhaustive research and confirmatory documentation, and which gives many vivid details concerning the event. The chief facts are these.

In April, 1860, Abraham Lincoln, having become a national figure by reason of his great Cooper Institute speech in New York City, was spending some time in Chicago as one of the counsel in the notable 'Sand Bar' case. His old friend, Mr. (soon after, 'General') Julius White, invited him to be a guest in his Evanston home, which stood at the Northwest corner of Ridge avenue and Church street. Lincoln was brought out to the village (then numbering about 1,200 inhabitants) on April 5, 1860, by Harvey B. Hurd, a founder and president of the Evanston Historical Society; on arrival, he was given a carriage ride about the place by Julius White, and then taken to the latter's residence. Many villagers came to the home, and were received by Mr. Lin-

coln, who also made a speech to a growing crowd from the front steps of the house; later, he spent the night under Mr. White's roof. Mr. Currey collected unimpeachable statements, verbal and written, from many who were present, among them the first citizens of the college town, most of whom were later personally known and highly respected by the present writer.

About 1884, General White's residence was moved eight blocks to a site at 1227 Elmwood avenue, immediately south of the old Township High School, in a different quarter of the city, and was acquired by A. D. Sanders, who remodeled it to conform to more modern requirements. He added a third story, built a projecting gabled front-wing, a verandah and a bay window.

In order to extend the High School property, the land on which the house stood was bought by the educational authorities, and Mr. Sanders was confronted by the situation of having a superfluous house on land which he could not use. Accordingly, he sold the house 'down the river', for a small sum, and it was again moved, in 1926, into the heart of Evanston's Negro section where it stands today at 2009 Dodge avenue. It is occupied (rather appropriately) by colored tenants.

It is an interesting phenomenon of human psychology that the residents of not less than five other homes in various parts of Evanston have proudly claimed (with no shadow of evidence) that *their* house was the one in which Lincoln spent the night.

A proposal has been made to place the following tablet on the venerable building:

IN THIS HOUSE
ABRAHAM LINCOLN
SPENT THE NIGHT
APRIL 5th TO APRIL 6th
1860

CERTIFIED:
EVANSTON HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

OLD ILLINOIS HOUSES

by John Drury



This house, built in the 50's at Cantrall, a few miles north of Springfield, was the home of Squire Power, pioneer Justice of the Peace, before whom Abraham Lincoln tried his first law case.

THE GEORGE POWER HOME.

A few miles north of Springfield, on the road that leads from the state capital to the restored village of New Salem, there stands, in a grove of maples, a spacious old white house that has been a landmark of the region for almost 90 years. In it lived a pioneer man who played no small a part in the development of Sangamon County and who was also associated with numerous historical figures of the state and nation, notably Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas. Kept in good condition throughout its long life, this house is now occupied by the fourth generation of the same family.

Here lived, throughout the Civil War period and for many years afterwards, George Power, or "Squire" Power, as he was affectionately known to his farmer neighbors and to the early citizens of Springfield. For almost 20 years he was a justice of the peace in the little settlement of Cantrall, just north of Springfield, and before him, according to reliable accounts, Abraham Lincoln tried his first law case. The little white frame courthouse in which this case was heard now stands on the grounds of the Power home and is frequently visited by Lincoln students and devotees.

Lincoln's First Law Suit.

The story of Lincoln's appearance before Squire Power was told several years ago by V. Y. Dallman Sr., in his historical column in the Illi-

nois State Register.

"According to Clayton Barber [historian of Sangamon County], there is no definite record as to this first law suit," writes Dallman, "but Mr. Barber believes it was the suit involving the killing of a dog in which Lincoln defended the man with the shotgun who killed the dog! The owner of the dog insisted that the man who shot the dog should have used 'the other end of the gun,' to which Mr. Lincoln replied, 'that would have been all right if the dog had come at him with the other end.'"

It was in 1836 that Squire Power heard this suit. The courthouse in which it was heard had been built in 1829 and was the first frame dwelling in the county erected north of the Sangamon River. We are told that Lincoln, then a lanky young law student, often visited Judge Power here on his travels between New Salem and Springfield. The little courthouse, built of clapboards, contains two rooms, both of which are finished with smooth black walnut. In one of the rooms, however, the walls are papered with newspapers, now old and frayed, and among these one can read Mexican War news in the columns of the Illinois State Register.

Power Followed Statchood.

In an article on Squire Power, recently written by his great-granddaughter, Virginia Riley (an actress and dramatic reader), we read that "Illinois had been a state just three years when young George Power came to the Sangamon County. His people had been Virginians who stopped in Kentucky for a generation. George Power was born in Fayette County, Kentucky, on Feb. 18, 1798. In the fall of 1821 he and his young wife and baby first saw the beautiful broad sweep of the Illinois prairie. They picked a hill beside a rushing creek, with a windbreak of timber to the north . . . black walnut trees and white oaks. Here George Power built a log cabin and thus Illinois became the home of the Power family."

An energetic young man, blonde and 6 feet tall, George Power at this period tilled his land and

dreamed of a time when he would build himself a spacious abode similar to those he had seen in Kentucky. He dreamed, too, of broad cultivated acres, thoroughbred horses, blooded stock, and all the comforts of a Southern plantation. But as he dreamed, he worked. In time he prospered. Then came the Black Hawk War. He was commissioned 2d lieutenant of a company of mounted volunteers by Gov. John Reynolds. After the war he returned to his farm on Fancy Creek and once more tilled the soil, raised cattle and served as justice of the peace.

It was not long now before he realized his dream. Sometime in the 50's he built for himself and family a roomy, two-story house of red brick, with spacious white porches. The bricks were made by hand. His two sons, William D. and James E., were now growing up. Always hospitable, Squire Power and his wife, Nancy, entertained many prominent people here in those years and among them was Stephen A. Douglas, who had stopped here overnight in 1860 after making a speech in Springfield.

Buried on Estate.

The story is told that during the lean years of the Civil War, Squire Power instructed the local flour mill to give the families of soldiers whatever flour they needed, and he would pay for it. The bill came to a total of \$600 and he paid. Another story about him is that at the age of 79 he "was awarded a gold-headed cane at the annual fair

for the most skillful feat of horseback riding by any person over 60." Squire Power died in 1886 at the age of 88. He was buried in a mausoleum of native limestone he had built for himself and family on the grounds of his estate.

But before he died, Squire Power was to see his own son, William, rise to prominence as a county judge in Springfield. An interesting coincidence is that Abraham Lincoln filed his last case in Sangamon County, before becoming President of the United States, in the court of County Judge William Power—just as he filed his first case before William's father, Squire Power. After the death of Squire Power, the big house in the grove of maples above Fancy Creek was occupied by the second son, James, who became a successful stock raiser.

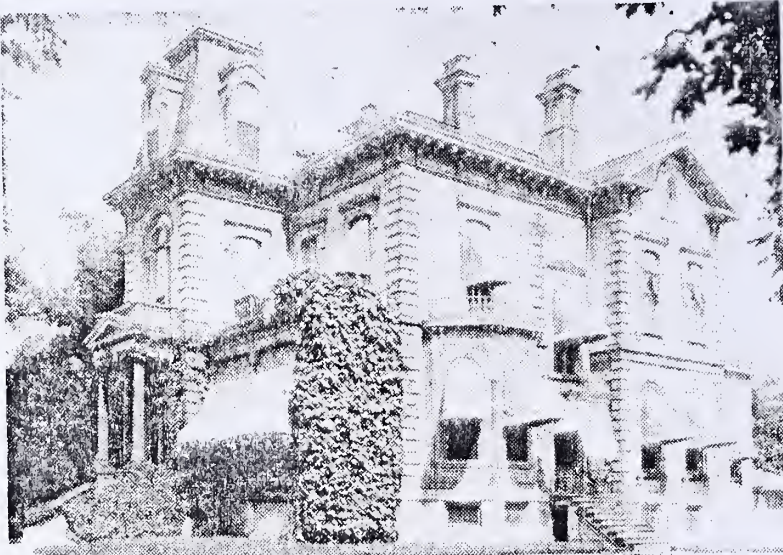
When James Power died in 1898, the house was taken over by his son, Charles. Under his supervision, Power Farms became one of the best-known tracts in central Illinois. He then gave up active farming, moved to Springfield, and entered the office of Secretary of State Edward J. Hughes. The next occupant of the old Power homestead was—and still is—Charles' sister, June Power Reilly. She and her husband, Frank C. Reilly, and their daughter, Virginia, cherish the great number of family heirlooms which adorn the house. Among these are a three-cornered walnut cupboard, a cherrywood four-poster bed and gold-plated chandeliers.

Visitors to the Power homestead today observe acres and acres of cultivated farm land and grazing cattle, a well-preserved old residence of white-painted brick, wide bluegrass lawns shaded by ancient maples, and, not far from the homestead, the little frame courthouse and the family cemetery—a cemetery where lie the remains of Squire Power's slaves whom he freed in the 30's but who chose to remain with the family the rest of their days.

(This is the 86th of a series of articles on famous old Illinois houses appearing each Friday in The Daily News. Readers are invited to submit suggestions.)

OLD ILLINOIS HOUSES

by John Drury



This imposing, late-Victorian mansion at Bloomington, Ill., was erected for Judge David Davis, who helped elect Lincoln to the presidency, and who was a justice of the United States Supreme Court as well as senator from Illinois.

[Photograph by United Photo.]

THE JUDGE DAVID DAVIS HOUSE.

Said to have been the one man who, more than any other, helped to bring about the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency, Judge David Davis, pioneer Illinois lawyer and justice of the United States Supreme Court, erected a palatial residence in Bloomington in his later years, and this dwelling survives today as one of the outstanding historical sights of the central Illinois city. Located at 1000 E. Jefferson st., the house is now occupied by Mrs. David Davis, widow of the grandson of the famous jurist.

The Davis house is a typical mansion of the 70's. Set back on a landscaped lawn and surrounded by big old shade trees, it rises to a height of two stories and its facade is dominated by a mansard tower with dormers. Still on the tower is the original cast-iron cresting—that distinguishing mark of late Victorian mansions of the more costly variety. Great stone steps lead up to a tall portico supported by columns. All rooms of the house are spacious, comfortable and decorative.

Was Political Figure.

At the time Judge Davis built this mansion he was a nationally known figure in politics. Not only had he served for 15 years as an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, but he had afterward been elected to the United States Senate from Illinois and had served in that body for one term. At one time during this

"Upon the assassination of President Lincoln," wrote Burrow Dis- kin Good in the McLean County issue of Illinois Quest magazine, "David Davis, at the request of the Lincoln family, became the administrator of the martyred President's estate. His masterful handling of the affairs of this trust made a record for efficient administration of an estate"

(This is the 91st of a series of articles on famous old Illinois houses appearing each Friday in The Daily News. Readers are invited to submit suggestions.)

term he was president "pro tempore" of the Senate. At an earlier date he was the National Labor Reform party's candidate for President of the United States, but was unsuccessful in the ensuing campaign.

Anyone who reads a biography of Lincoln will frequently encounter the name of Judge David Davis. For Davis was one of Lincoln's closest friends and had been such for many years before the tall, Springfield lawyer was thought of as presidential timber. In Illinois history Judge Davis is known as one of the "three musketeers"—the three men who groomed Lincoln for the presidency. The other two, who also were Bloomington men, were Jesse Fell and Leonard Swett. One of them—Fell—afterward wrote "To Judge Davis, more than to any other man . . . is the American people indebted for . . . the nomination . . . of Abraham Lincoln."

Opened Lincoln Headquarters.

That nomination took place in Chicago in 1860. It was Judge David Davis who opened Lincoln headquarters in the Tremont Hotel when the national Republican convention of that year was held in the famous Wigwam. And it was Davis and the other two "musketeers" who steered the convention toward Lincoln.

A man of wealth, due largely to fortunate and careful investments in land throughout Illinois and the Middle West, Judge Davis had not always been of such affluence. He was born in Cecil County, Maryland, on March 9, 1815. His father was of Welch ancestry. Because of the loss of an inheritance Young Davis was forced to work his way through college. He then studied law and came to Bloomington in 1836. In 1848 he was elected judge of the famous 8th Judicial Circuit in Illinois.

"For 14 picturesque years [1848-62] he presided over the noted 8th Judicial Circuit in Illinois, his popularity being demonstrated in three elections as judge," says the Dictionary of American Biography. "Many lawyers of distinction, including Lincoln, Orville H. Browning, Douglas, Leonard Sweet, S. T. Logan and Lyman Trumbull, practiced before him. An intimate friendship with Lincoln was formed during this period. . . . Lincoln at times presided over Davis' court when the judge was pressed with private business."

A Big Man.

In personal appearance Judge Davis was a big, impressive man, standing some 6 feet tall and weighing more than 300 pounds. When seen on the streets he and the tall, lanky Lincoln were a striking pair. When Lincoln left Springfield for the last time as President-Elect Judge Davis accompanied him to Washington. Judge Davis died at Bloomington on June 26, 1886.

OLD ILLINOIS HOUSES

by John Drury

THE GEN. JULIUS WHITE HOUSE.

In a recent issue of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, Dr. James Taft Hatfield, retired Northwestern University professor, called attention to an unusual situation existing for almost a quarter of a century in Evanston. This had to do with the claims of at least half a dozen residents who,



In this remodeled house, located at 2009 Dodge av., Evanston, and built in the early 50's, Abraham Lincoln was an overnight guest six weeks before he was elected president. His host was Julius White, pioneer Chicagoan and Civil War general.

[Photograph by James Taft Hatfield.]

at various times, said that Abraham Lincoln stopped at their house when he visited Evanston in 1860. All of these claims have been discounted, says Dr. Hatfield, with the exception of one, and it was in this house, and this one only, that Lincoln spent a night just six weeks before he was nominated for president of the United States.

Although somewhat altered, the house in which the memorable visit was made still stands. It is located at 2009 Dodge av. For proof of the fact that Lincoln was a guest in this dwelling, Dr. Hatfield cites a well-known historian, J. Seymour Currey, who was at one time president of the Evanston Historical Society. In addition to writing numerous other works, Currey, in 1914, penned a pamphlet entitled

"Abraham Lincoln's visit to Evanston in 1860." It is in this pamphlet that we are given incontrovertible proof that the Civil War president stopped in the dwelling which now stands on Dodge av.

Not on Original Site.

But this is not its original site. Thanks to research by Dr. Hatfield, who took up the story of the house after Currey had written his pamphlet in 1914, we learn that it has been standing on its present Dodge av. site only since 1926. It had previously occupied another site after being moved from the spot at the northwest corner of Ridge av. and Church st. on which it stood when Lincoln was sheltered under its roof. This neighborhood has always been known to Evanstonians as "the Ridge." Today, on its Dodge av. site, the "Lincoln House" (as it is sometimes called) stands in the midst of the Negro section of Evanston, and, as Dr. Hatfield says, is "rather appropriately" occupied by Negro tenants.

At the time Lincoln was an overnight guest in this abode, it was occupied by Julius White, a friend of Lincoln's who was then harbor master of Chicago and a member of the Board of Trade. He afterwards became a general in the Civil War. When Lincoln became president, he appointed White collector of the port of Chicago. But White resigned this office soon afterwards to raise a regiment, the 37th Illinois Volunteers. After the war, Gen. White returned to Evanston and there he died in 1890. On exhibit in the Evanston Historical Society today are two Army commissions to White signed by President Lincoln.

It was at the time Lincoln was an attorney in the "Sand Bar" case in Chicago that he came to Gen. White's home in Evanston. He was then being talked of as a presidential possibility. He was escorted to Evanston in a North Western Railway train by Harvey B. Hurd, neighbor of Gen. White's and a founder and first president of the Evanston Historical Society. The day was April 5, 1860. Lincoln and Hurd sat near the stove in the railway coach and swapped stories.

Only 1,200 in Evanston.

Upon arrival in Evanston, the future president of the United States was taken for a buggy ride about the village by his host, Julius White. The village then numbered about 1,200 residents and only five years earlier Northwestern University had erected its first building. When Lincoln was installed in the White home on "The Ridge," a crowd gathered in front and "serenaded" the future president. The tall Springfield lawyer came out on the veranda and delivered a brief address. Later that evening one of the guests, J. D. Ludlam, sang a few songs, with Miss Isabel Stewart at the piano. It was the first time they had seen each other. They were married a year later.

At that time the White home was a plain, two-story frame dwelling set back on a wide lawn and surrounded by a white picket fence. It was originally built by Alexander McDaniel and afterwards sold

to the Rev. Philo Judson. Gen. White moved into it when he first came to Evanston in 1859.

"About 1884," writes Dr. Hatfield, "Gen. White's residence was moved eight blocks to a site at 1227

Elmwood av., immediately south of the old Township High School, in a different quarter of the city, and was acquired by A. D. Sanders, who remodeled it to conform to more modern requirements. He added a third story, built a projecting gabled front-wing, a verandah and a bay window." But the bedroom which Lincoln occupied is still intact, says Dr. Hatfield. It is on the

second floor, in the northwest corner of the house.

Encounters Singer Again.

After Lincoln was elected president and the Civil War broke out, the young Evanstonian who sang for Lincoln in the White home, J. D. Ludlam, joined the Army and became an officer in the 8th Illinois Cavalry. His unit was sent to a camp near Washington, D.C. One day, while visiting the camp, President Lincoln recognized the tall, young Evanstonian. The Chief Executive remembered Ludlam's singing, and Miss Stewart's accompaniment on the piano, in the Evanston home of Julius White. The result of the encounter was that President Lincoln invited Ludlam to the White House to sing for himself and Mrs. Lincoln.

It is recorded that Ludlam, who afterwards became a major in the Union Army, sang the same "home-ly songs" on the occasion of the White House visit that he sang for Lincoln in the house on "The Ridge." What these songs were, however, is still unrecorded. "This echo of the Lincoln visit to Evanston," wrote J. Seymour Currey, "and the romance that had its beginning at that time, throws a golden haze of sentiment over the event we have been describing and heightens the interest that the episode otherwise possesses for all who take a pride in our Evanston annals."

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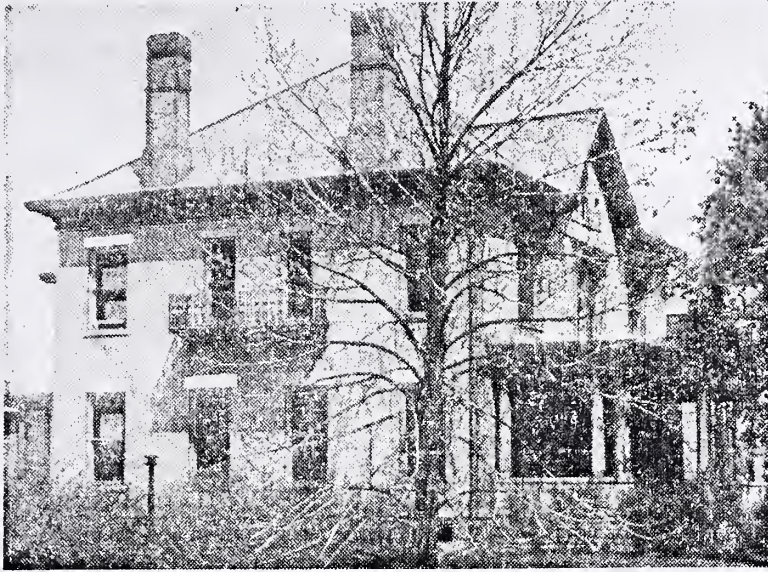
OLD ILLINOIS HOUSES

by John Drury

THE FITHIAN HOUSE.

In the years immediately before he was elected President, Abraham Lincoln was a guest in many homes throughout the central part of Illinois. When he became a candidate for United States senator against Stephen A. Douglas it was natural that, while visiting these homes, he

million River, Dr. Fithian attended the sick not only in Danville but in all sections of that part of the state, even caring for patients as far west as Bloomington and as far north as Chicago. On his distant calls he rode the lonely prairies on horseback, carrying with him enough tea for an occasional sip at a roadside resting-place.



From the second-floor balcony of this Danville house Abraham Lincoln delivered a brief address when he was a candidate for United States senator in 1858.

[Photograph by Tep Wright.]

should be prevailed upon to speak a few words to the townspeople who usually gathered before the house where he was stopping as a guest. Mostly these talks were made from a front porch or from a second-floor balcony. As a result of these brief, informal speeches, the houses where they were made—that is, those which survive—are today objects of veneration to Lincoln devotees and historic landmarks in their communities.

An outstanding house of this type in eastern Illinois, and one that is noteworthy in itself as the abode of a well-known pioneer of the region, is the Fithian residence on Gilbert street in Danville. A large boulder on the lawn in front of the house contains a historical marker bearing the words: "Abraham Lincoln delivered an impromptu address from the balcony of this house while a guest here in 1858. Placed by the Gov. Bradford Chapter, D. A. R., 1926."

Met by Large Crowd.

In the official state guidebook, compiled by the WPA writers' project, we read: "On Sept. 21, 1858, a large crowd met Lincoln at the railroad depot and escorted him to Dr. Fithian's home. Lincoln expressed his thanks for the reception in a brief speech delivered from the balcony at the south side of the house, as attested by a Lincoln memorial boulder on the lawn." It

As Danville grew, Dr. Fithian's practice grew and in time he began acquiring tracts of land in the county. He entered other fields—the mercantile business, banking, politics. He served one term as state senator and two terms as state representative. When railroads appeared, he was instrumental in getting several of the leading roads to pass through Danville and Vermilion County. The town of Fithian, west of Danville, is named after him.

Dr. Fithian died in 1890 at the age of 91. His house was subsequently owned and occupied by Charles Feldkamp, a leading confectioner of Danville. For more than 50 years the Feldkamp family has lived here and during this time a new roof was added, as well as a newer and larger front porch. But the ornamental, cast-iron balcony at the south end remains as it was when Lincoln stood on it 84 years ago and addressed the crowd before the house. And among the listeners in that crowd was Mrs. Feldkamp's mother, Mrs. Bernard Lamcool, an early resident of Danville.

was natural for a large crowd to collect before the Fithian house that day for Lincoln was then in the midst of his seven joint debates with Douglas—debates which put him on the road to the presidency.

In this two-story brick house, which has been somewhat remodeled since it was first built, lived Dr. William Fithian, one of the first settlers of Danville and a pioneer physician in that part of Illinois. He was a close friend of Lincoln. In fact, the man who became a world figure, an American immortal, served as Dr. Fithian's attorney for a number of years, representing him in several legal cases and advising him as a counselor and mentor. The two maintained their close friendship even after Lincoln left Illinois and became president of the United States.

When the Civil War broke out, President Lincoln, busy as he was, did not forget his friend in Danville. He pointed him provost marshal of what was then the 7th congressional district, a district embracing most of the east-central part of the state. Dr. Fithian served honorably and competently in this capacity. After the war, he retired to his Gilbert street home, being then in his 60s, and there held forth as one of the leading citizens of Danville.

Built Home in 30's.

From available data, Dr. Fithian built his house some time in the 30's. It is of record that he first came to Danville in 1830. This was only a few years after Dan Beckwith, trader at a salt works on the Vermilion River, donated a large tract of land east of the works for the establishment of a county seat—a county seat which became the city of Danville. When Dr. Fithian arrived, Danville was nothing more than a settlement of frame and log houses, with a few grist mills and general stores serving the community.

In addition to his association with Lincoln and the early history of Illinois, Dr. Fithian enjoys another distinction. He is recorded as being the first white child born in Cincinnati, Ohio. His natal day was April 7, 1799. When William Fithian was 13, he served in the "home guard" during the War of 1812. Upon reaching maturity, he set out for himself, came west in Indiana, and finally settled at Danville.

As a practicing physician in the pioneer Illinois town on the Ver-

Old Illinois Hotel Used By Lincoln Is Falling Apart

MACKINAW, Ill., Feb. 25. (INS)

—Mackinaw's landmark, Pendergast Inn, where Abe Lincoln used to stop while riding his circuit in Central Illinois, has fallen to the ignominy of being wanted by no one.

Its joists and sills sag more and more. It no longer has a front door and every window pane has been treated to at least one barrage by boys about town.

Liam Halsey, commander of all

A few years ago a civic minded group of citizens hoped to buy the inn and restore it as a Lincoln memorial. Title to the property then was held by a man in a state institution. By the time the group had struggled through legal red tape to acquire a transfer, the building had become so broken down that the sponsors of the memorial lost interest.

Last November, at a conservator's sale, a woman bought the building for \$30, subject to approval of court. The court failed to approve and a second auction was held. Not one bid was heard.

Seven Mile House, Where Lincoln Stayed, Being Razed

BY JOHN DRURY.

Wreckers' axes today hacked away the last of a Chicago house whose walls, according to its owner, once re-echoed to the slow twang of Abraham Lincoln's voice.

That building is the old Seven Mile House—former tavern, general store and homestead of the Kransz family—at the northeast corner of Clark street and Ridge avenue. It was built in 1848 when Lincoln was a lanky 38-year-old lawyer down in Springfield and the civil war was still thirteen years away.

It then stood outside the city limits among the celery patches, truck farms, woods and prairies of Lake View township. Today, more than half demolished, it is all but smothered among big apartment buildings and the near-by bulk of Nicholas Senn high school.

Visited It on Campaign.

"Lincoln visited the Seven Mile House when he was a candidate for the presidency in 1860," says Peter P. Kransz, 78-year-old head of a fire insurance company at 10 North Clark street and son of Nicholas Kransz, who built the house.

Although the insurance head was but a 2-year-old baby at the time, he says he remembered Lincoln on the occasion of the visit. "I was playing with a red toy wheelbarrow at a little sand pile in the yard when Lincoln came up and patted me on the head," said Kransz, who now lives at 5896 Ridge avenue.

"Lincoln said, 'Hello, sonny, how are you getting along?' and then stooped down and played with me for ten minutes—pushing the toy wheelbarrow with sand in it and showing me how to load it," continued Mr. Kransz. "Of course, my mother told me what he said and did when I became a little older. But I distinctly remember a tall man pushing my red barrow."

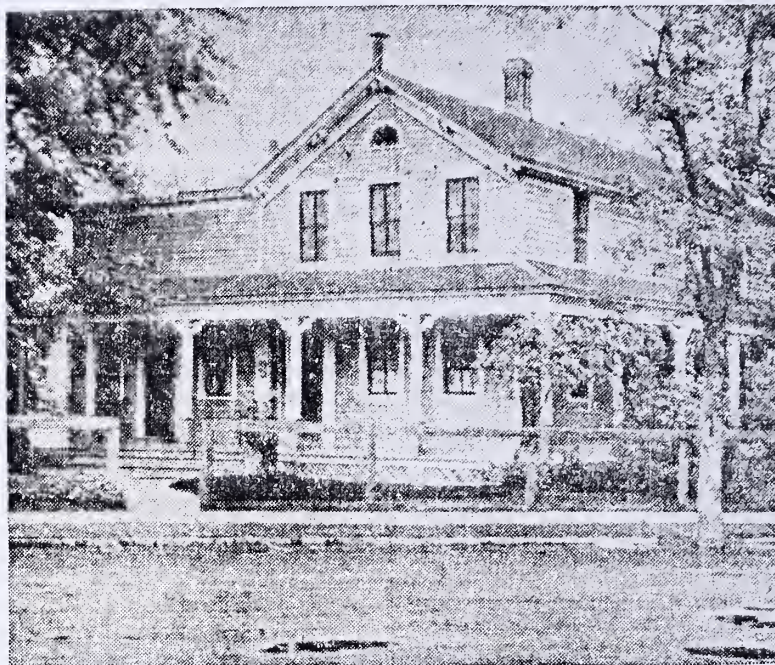
"Then, one day when I was 7 year olds, I came home from school and saw our house draped with white and black mourning. This puzzled me and my mother explained that the president had been shot and killed. She recalled to me the tall man who had pushed my red wheelbarrow when I was a baby. That's how I member so well Lincoln's visit to our house."

Father Recalled Visit.

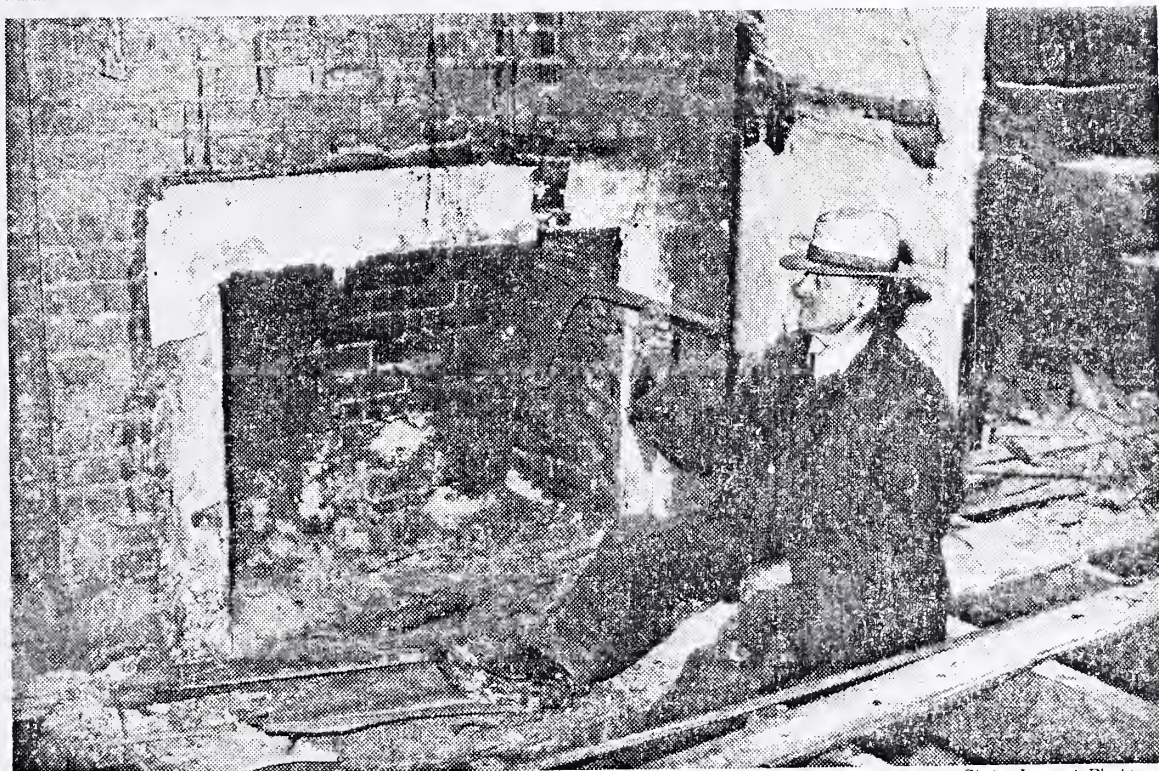
Mr. Kransz said that when he grew older his father often spoke

of the Lincoln visit, as did other farmers in the vicinity. Lincoln was brought to Seven Mile House, says the elderly insurance man, to attend a Republican caucus of the farmers in the vicinity, most of whom were from Luxemburg and Germany.

HISTORICAL SITE VANISHING



Built in 1848 on the northeast corner of Clark street and Ridge avenue, this homestead of the Kransz family, one of Chicago's few remaining historical landmarks, is being wrecked. The home was visited in 1860 by Abraham Lincoln when he was a candidate for the presidency.



—State Journal Photos.

Tearing Down House Over 100 Years Old
Lincoln Once Roomed In Building Now Being Razed

Remains of an old house, which is believed to be more than 100 years old, are shown in the photo above. The structure, which is at 410 South Eighth street, is being torn down. Hand hewn studdings, wooden pegs and square nails were used in construction. Mike Heffern, who is razing the building, is shown below examining one of the fireplaces, on which a kettle holder is still attached.

A landmark of yesteryear, which has stood for more than 100 years as one of Springfield's early structures and as a reminder of the days of Abraham Lincoln, is being razed at 410 South Eighth street to make way for a new apartment building.

It is a matter of conjecture as to whether Lincoln lived in the sturdy old dwelling when he resided with friends while a member of the Illinois general assembly. Word handed down from father to son has it that the Emancipator did live there a short period.

Whether the Civil war president resided there or not, the ancient frame house is in the center of historic Lincoln neighborhood—in the same block with the Lincoln home and just two blocks from the old Wabash passenger station where the famous farewell address was given.

Isaac R. Diller, 77, who knew the Lincoln children as a child while living in the 400 block South Seventh street, said the home has been there as long as he can remember.

George Bingham, 75, of 411 South Eighth street, declared his father, Cook Bingham, who operated the Bingham house at Tenth and Monroe streets, had told him the dwelling was erected about 1838.

One time resident was the late George Hofferkamp, who was once custodian of Lincoln's home. Edward Hofferkamp, nephew of George Hofferkamp, said he knew nothing of the house's history.

Dr. and Mrs. Curtman McMahon, owners of the property, declared the home to be at least 100 years old.

It was erected on a lot which now measures 40 by 157 feet on the east side of Eighth street. It consisted of seven rooms, including two bedrooms in the half story upstairs, living room, dining room, kitchen, and utility rooms.

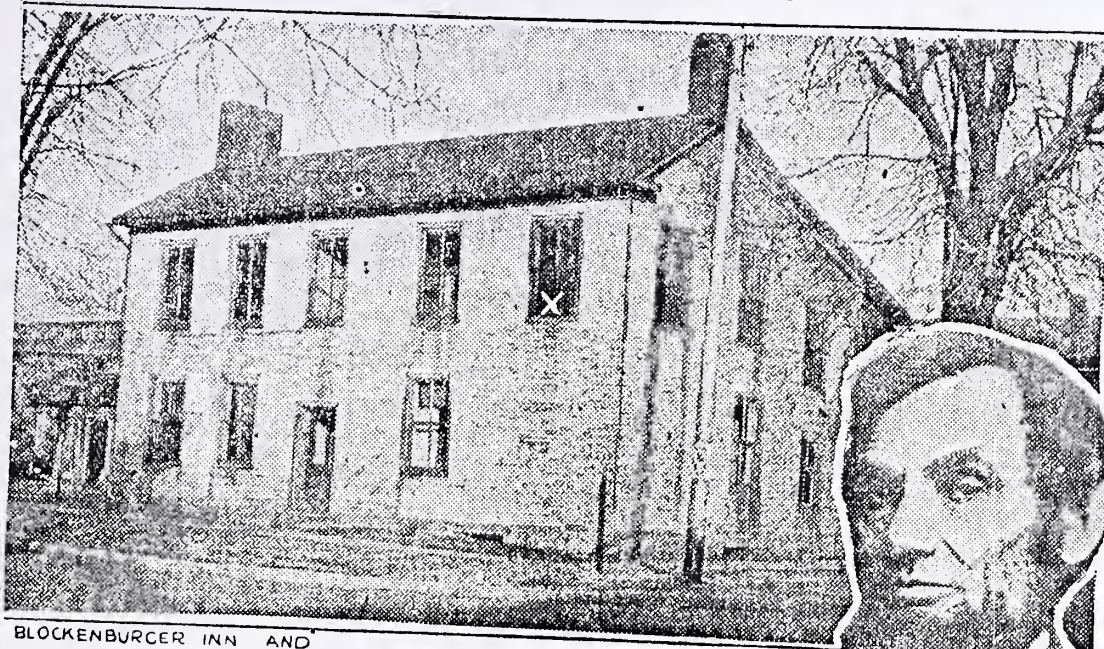
Two fireplaces with open hearths stand with their original kettle hangers, one in the living room and the other in the dining room.

Hand hewn studding, sills and beams and hand split laths, together with wooden pegs joining studding and beams, exemplify house building of other days. Weather boarding was nailed with square nails. Many pieces of the materials are of white oak. The stairway was of walnut as was the trimming.

Still in good condition, lumber from the house has already been sold and is to be used for subflooring and for garages. Four layers of wallpaper were found and a shingle roof with three layers of rubberoid roofing uncovered.

Mike Heffern, 1824 South State street, in charge of the demolition, said the house was "built so well" it would have stood many more years.

Rebuild Town Where Lincoln Began Career



BLOCKENBURGER INN AND
BRADY PHOTO OF LINCOLN

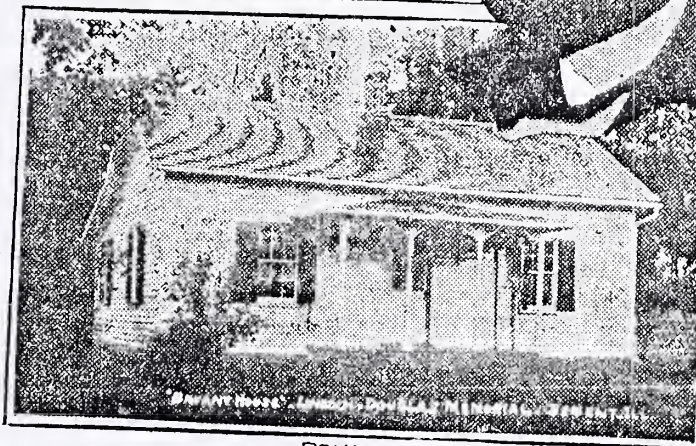
SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 12.—(P)—The village of New Salem, where Abraham Lincoln ran a store, studied law, served as postmaster and won election to the legislature, is to rise from its ruins in all the detail of the emancipator's early manhood.

The Old Salem Lincoln League is ready, on the one hundred and eighteenth anniversary of Lincoln's birth, to ask the Illinois general assembly for \$50,000 with which to restore the hamlet.

The site already is the center of a state park where are preserved five of the old structures, the schoolhouse site and the graveyard. Added to these will be the Offut store where Lincoln worked, the Berry and Lincoln store where he met business reverses, the tannery, the wheel factory, the carding machine house and all the homes of the 1830's.

Even furnishings, roads and trees, and the bank of the Sangamon where Lincoln plied a flatboat will be in replica. The reproduction will be marked next year with a pageant.

Lincoln's birthday finds wreckers leveling a legendary landmark at Hillsboro—the Blockenburger



BRYANT HOUSE

Upper left—Blockenburger Inn, where Stephen A. Douglass awaited Lincoln's answer to his challenge to debate and where tradition says Lincoln spent a night (window marked). Lower—The "Bryant House" at Bement, where Lincoln and Douglass planned their debates.

inn—where tradition says Douglas waited for Lincoln's answer to his challenge to debate, and where Lincoln is said to have spent a night preparing for a duel he never fought. A filling station will take its place.

Restoration of New Salem will add to Illinois' record of Lincoln's

career in the state. His Springfield home and the Bement farmhouse where he discussed with Douglass their series of debates have been memorialized, Lincoln's tomb here is a shrine, and the state capitol of Lincoln's day survives here as the Sangamon county courthouse.



A TOUR OF THE Vermilion County Illinois MUSEUM



*Lincoln spoke from a balcony of this building
on September 21, 1858*

Vermilion County Museum Society

Museum Hours:

Open Tuesdays through Saturdays 10 AM - 5 PM; Sundays 1 - 5 PM

Closed Mondays

**116 NORTH GILBERT, DANVILLE, ILLINOIS 61832
TELEPHONE: 442-2922**

Ann Bauer, Director

The Vermilion County Museum was established to encourage the study and preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of Vermilion County, including natural history. The Museum Society is proud of the various artifacts we have collected and displayed at your Museum. We are hopeful that you will soon visit the Museum for a guided tour. Here is a sample tour.

Our Museum is housed in the home of William Fithian, M.D., who in his time served as prairie legislator, horseback doctor, friend of Abraham Lincoln, and Civil War surgeon. Our first tour stop is Dr. Fithian's office. Dr. Fithian came to Danville in 1830. In 1850 he married Josephine Culbertson Black. They built the house in 1855, but this room did not become his office until 1880, when he was 81 years old. In his office you see an old doctor's bag, saddle bags with medicine still in them, and the simple utensils the Doctor used to make medicines from herbs. In 1890, the Doctor died at the age of 90. For five years the home was a rooming house. In 1895, the Charles U. Feldkamps bought the home and lived here for 48 years. They made many improvements, such as adding the big front porch and windows on the south side where there had been none.

The Feldkamp Parlor is reminiscent of a rich man's parlor in the 1890s. Eye catchers are the wreath made of feathers, the Steinway grand piano manufactured in 1868, and Amos Williams' bookcase. The dresses shown were worn by Theda Feldkamp, daughter of Charles Feldkamp.

The Uncle Joe Cannon Room contains many personal artifacts of Joseph G. Cannon (Uncle Joe) who served in the House of Representatives for 46 years and was Speaker of the House from 1903-1911. In this room we have his Speaker's gavel, his big double sided desk, his trademark beaver hat, cigar humidor, originals of political cartoons that appeared in the Chicago Tribune and a silver punch bowl presented by the 58th Congress, as well as many personally inscribed pictures and other memorabilia reminiscent of his dynamic life.

Next is the Vermilion County Room which displays Vermilion County's history in pictures, most of which were taken or copied by "Pop" Bowman. In the large case on the north wall are many items of interest -- war memorabilia, including the sword Dan Beckwith used in the Black Hawk War, and a bayonet used in the Civil War. There are invitations to executions, Confederate money, and a glass cane.

In the basement is the recreated dental office of John Cleveland Higgason, 1883-1972. Dr. Higgason moved to Danville in 1915 and shared an office with Dr. Crist. In 1918 he relocated at 306 Temple Building and remained there 50 years. The equipment is his original equipment purchased in 1911.

Also in the basement is our Industrial Room which houses a Western Brick exhibit, early business equipment, and a high-wheel bicycle.



Upstairs, our first stop is the Lincoln Room. Lincoln came to Danville for one of the last times on September 21, 1858. He spent the night in this room because he was a friend of Dr. Fithian. Lincoln was already a very important man because he was running for United States Senator against Stephen A. Douglas. Before this date he had already had four of his seven Lincoln-Douglas Debates. While he did not win the Senatorship, the debates helped him become nominated for President of the United States. That afternoon he spoke informally from the balcony to the people on the ground below. After attending a political rally that evening, he came back

THE HERB GARDEN

In the southwest corner of the grounds of the Vermilion County Museum, Danville, Illinois, is an oasis of beauty amid the hustle and bustle of a typical midwest city. It is the Dr. Fithian Memorial Herb Garden, sponsored and maintained by the Danville Garden Club.

Dr. William Fithian, who once owned the property at 116 North Gilbert Street, was a physician who grew many of the medicinal herbs he prescribed for his patients, according to the common practice of the day. When the home was sold in the nineteen-forties to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barnhart, Nell Barnhart planted "pot-herbs" among the flowers in her extensive perennial borders. An avid gardener and long-time member of the Danville Garden Club, Mrs. Barnhart's collection of day lilies was among the largest and most beautiful in the county. Sadly, most of her lovely flowers had to be uprooted to provide parking space for visitors when the property was sold to the Vermilion County Museum Society in 1964.

In 1967 the Danville Garden Club was invited to re-create an Herb Garden on the grounds. After consultation with the architects of restored gardens in Williamsburg, Virginia, the garden was laid out in a rectangle with a diamond-shaped center and outlined with brick walkways. The herbs chosen were in three categories, medicinal, culinary and Biblical. At first two women were largely responsible for the planting and care of the garden. Mrs. Niels Nielsen and Mrs. Walter Ahrens worked long and hard but it soon became apparent that such an undertaking could not be the responsibility of a few. Hence, in 1969, the Herb Study Group was formed within the Danville Garden Club to maintain the project and to learn more about the plants grown. During the summer months about thirty women meet on Monday mornings to plant, weed and harvest approximately twenty-five different herbs. These are then sold at the club's Annual Christmas Show and at the Museum Gift Shop. The money earned is used to purchase seeds and plants for the next growing season.

On June 14, 1973 this group placed a decorative sundial in the center bed to honor Nell Barnhart, who had been an inspiration to three generations of Garden Club members.

In mid-summer, a stroll through the garden will be an olfactory as well as a visual delight. Thyme, basil, marjoram, oregano, even the names evoke a sense of old times renewed. Observe the heavenly blue of linum, the gay colors of foxglove and the mounds of santolina, wormwood and rue. Stop and rub your fingers over the sage and breathe in its pungent aroma. Taste a leaf of the French tarragon and the spearmint. There is history here! This, too, is a page from our cultural heritage and a living memorial to Dr. Fithian and all of our pioneer forefathers.

THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

According to Miss Marie Feldkamp, what we call the Carriage House was not Dr. Fithian's original Carriage House; that was moved and became the center of the apartment building northwest of the museum. Miss Feldkamp said her father built the building known as the "Carriage House" for his barn, about 1895. The stalls were in a half basement, the carriage on floor level and the hay on the third level. The barn was partially destroyed due to spontaneous combustion and the bricks were so discolored that the outside was stuccoed; later it was made into a garage with an apartment for the house-man above.

On February 10, 1974 we opened the first floor of the Carriage House to visitors. Downstairs we have three rooms - the old-fashioned kitchen, the Child's Room for which Miss Frances Watkins is sponsor, and the Shutts' Memorial Room, honoring Berenice and Frances Shutts. The Shutts sisters were the great-granddaughters of Dr. Asa Palmer, first Danville doctor. In a generous bequest, Berenice Shutts left to the Museum the furniture you see in this room, as well as other beautiful pieces displayed throughout the Museum.

The second phase of the Carriage House Restoration began in August of 1975 with the roofing of the Carriage House by the Illiana Antique Auto Club under the leadership and workmanship of Mr. Milo Faulkner. Following that, the Jaycees painted the Carriage House. We are very grateful to both the Antique Auto Club and the Jaycees for the fine volunteer work they gave on the Carriage House.

In 1976 through the help of Mr. James Springer, the Museum received a grant from the Illinois Bicentennial Commission for the restoration of the Carriage House; Mr. Springer was chairman of the Carriage House Restoration which was done in 1976-77. The present restoration includes mostly the second floor and the landscaping of the outside. The second floor has a Bicentennial Commission's White House Presidents' Blue Room with pictures and memorabilia of every President of the United States. That ambitious undertaking and beautiful room was the responsibility of Mr. Springer, and he has also prepared the Document and Picture Room. Mrs. Zella Laury, then Director of the Museum, was responsible for assembling the quaint old-fashioned schoolroom. For two major contributions to the second floor of the Carriage House we wish to thank Mr. Ed Frank of Sears, Roebuck and Company for the carpeting and Mr. W.B. (Blackie) Black and Automatic Engineering Company for the gift of the heating system for the Carriage House. On May 8, 1977 the entire Carriage House was opened to the public.

and slept in the big canopied bed in this room. In the Lincoln Room we have the original balcony, the original bed, fireplace, woodwork and floor. We also have an original newspaper announcing Lincoln's candidacy for the Senate and a photograph of Lincoln taken the day he was here. There is also a picture made of yarn flowers, dyed with vegetable dye, which hung on the walls of a Vermilion County family home from 1859 to 1972.

The Georgetown Room displays furniture from the Georgetown home of George Washington Holloway, Captain of the 125th Volunteer Regiment in the Civil War. Besides their bed, trunk, etc., we have their daughter's (Rose) wedding dress. In 1891 Rose married John R. Thompson who later became the founder and owner of the Thompson chain of restaurants. The large portrait over the fireplace is John R. Thompson. The Thompson's daughter, Mrs. Ruth Thompson McGibeny, sponsors this room.

The little room which was Mr. Feldkamp's den is now our Art Gallery. We regularly change the exhibits here and display art works from Vermilion County. Also on display is the collection of cranberry glass left to the museum as a bequest from Ireta Bremer.

The Bredehoff Memorial Room is often called the "sad room." Stella Barkley was a Danville girl, the only child of very wealthy parents. She fell in love with the stable boy although her father had chosen another man to be her husband. Stella purchased her trousseau from L. S. Ayres in Indianapolis, and shortly before she was to have been married, she died of diphtheria. Her room was closed for 47 years, and at an auction in 1924 Mabel Bredehoff bought the dresses and other things. The little white hat with plumes has the original bill from L. S. Ayres and Company for \$20.00, dated January 7, 1876.

The Audubon Room displays many natural history items and is sponsored by the Vermilion County Audubon Society. Among the items on exhibit are mastodon teeth, dating back 200 million years.

As you walk down the hallway, you will notice our library on the left.

At the end of the hallway is our Ruth Thompson McGibeny Music Room which originally was the maid's bedroom. The fire escape stairs just outside the room were hers to use to go to the kitchen (which is now the gift shop and office). The spinning wheel belonged to Mrs. Amos Williams. You can view a Civil War drum, flute, and a wreath made out of human hair.

Our tour is not complete without a visit to the gift shop. We have many interesting items ranging in price from 10¢ to \$5.00, including back issues of **The Heritage**, postcards, commemorative items, jewelry, historical articles, and books.

Outside is the Herb Garden which we pass on the way to the Carriage House. The Carriage House has been restored to make room for five exhibit rooms . . . the Old-Fashioned Kitchen, the Child's Room with a fine doll collection, the Shutts' Memorial Room, an Old-Fashioned Schoolroom, and the President's Blue Room.

The Shutts' Memorial Fragrance Garden is located in the northwest section of the museum grounds, honoring Berenice and Frances Shutts, who left a generous bequest to the museum. The garden was planned by Betty and Marion Collings and is a sensual, olfactory and visual delight.

The Heritage Magazine

Published four times each year, this excellent magazine portrays our historical heritage through articles and photographs. Each story is carefully authenticated by Donald and Susan Richter, Editors. Local historians and contributors are called upon regularly to participate in this fine quarterly magazine.

The Heritage is available for one dollar per copy; \$10.00 per year. Subscriptions are available through Society membership.

Museum Tours and Hours

Tours of the Museum and Carriage House can be arranged for school classes, scout groups, clubs, organizations and families. Advance contact with the Museum Director is suggested to guarantee a specific time for your tour.

Museum Hours Open Tuesday through Saturday Phone: (217) 442-2922
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.
Open Sundays 1 - 5 P.M.
Closed Mondays

Museum Society members and organizations paying organizational memberships are admitted free. Admission charges for all others are:

Adults - \$1.00 Children over 14 years - \$1.00 Ages 6-14 - 50¢

Memberships

Memberships in the Vermilion County Museum Society include free admission to the Museum, **The Heritage** magazine and the bi-monthly Museum Newsletter. Types of memberships available are:

Life	\$150.00	Family	\$ -12.00
Patron	50.00	Individual	10.00
Contributing	15.00	Student	8.00
Sustaining	25.00	Organizational	15.00
Senior Citizen	8.00	Century Club	100.00

President Lincoln, 'Lost' and found

By Scott DeSmit sdesmit@batavianews.com | Posted: Saturday, April 7, 2012 3:00 am

As curator of Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Ill., James Cornelius has often had to debunk a few myths about our 16th president.

Yes, Lincoln enjoyed wrestling.

No, he was not a vampire hunter, as depicted in the new movie.

And it's likely Lincoln did not slip away from his inaugural trip entourage on Feb. 17, 1861, and spend the day and night at a house in the town of Alexander, a house where he tried, unsuccessfully, to save a young boy in a fire.

Of course, Cornelius has not yet read Ida Hoyt Chamberlain's account of that in her book Lincoln's Fifteen Lost Hours.

He will, though.

The book has been donated to the library to become part of a vast collection of Lincoln items.

"No one had heard of this book until it was called to our attention," Cornelius said. "It's been a long process securing this book. We're very pleased to have it."

Cornelius is aware of the general theme of the book: That Lincoln, on Feb. 17, 1861, left a hotel in Buffalo and spent the night at a plantation-style home in Alexander. The home was owned by the children of Phillip McLosky, whose great-great granddaughter was Ida Hoyt Chamberlain.

The legend has circulated for years that Lincoln spent the night in Alexander, though it was never proven.

Chamberlain wrote the book in 1975, basing it on her own knowledge, family records and the personal diary of her grandmother, though those diaries were stolen before publication of the book.

Few copies of the book still exist, as Cornelius and Mary Ann Pohl, librarian for the Lincoln Collection, found out.

Pohl said a patron of the library asked if the library had the book. Contacts with historians proved fruitless.

"If it's Lincoln-related, we want it," Pohl said.

That led to an Internet search, which revealed no copies existed for sale.

Cornelius did find five copies that were in libraries in Western New York.

State College at Geneseo had one and was going to loan it to the library, Cornelius said.

Somehow, the email-connection between Cornelius and his source at Geneseo was lost.

"We lost contact with the woman and eventually we gave up," he said. Sometimes really important items come to us quick and easy. Then there are items such as this, with limited historical value, I think, that take months and months."

Pohl read an article in The Daily News on the book and contacted a reporter wondering "how I might obtain a copy of the book?"

As it turned out, the Genesee County History Department has three copies.

Historian Sue Conklin made a formal request to the Legislature, asking for permission to donate one copy to the Lincoln Library.

Permission granted.

"It's really neat that a piece of Genesee County is going to be in the Lincoln Library," Conklin said. "There were a lot of people in this community who were definitely supportive of Lincoln and to have that tied to the library is nice."

The book was donated to the History Department by the estate of longtime historian Ruth McEvoy, who had it signed by Chamberlain.

The book is in pristine condition.

Conklin is among the skeptics of Chamberlain's claim.

"It just seems odd that there are no diaries or letters out there about this," she said. "I hope it's true. It's one of those positive local folk legends."

True or not, the claims made in the book are interesting.

Lincoln was in his second month of presidency when he arrived in Buffalo on Feb. 16, 1861. The next day he attended church with Millard Fillmore and, according to Chamberlain's book, at some point during the day slipped away and took a coach to Alexander.

She claims Culver Chamberlain, a friend of the McLoskys, arranged for Lincoln and Fillmore to visit the estate and inspect an Indian reservation in Genesee County.

Lincoln also was interested in McLosky's horses and the social and financial problems of owning slaves in the North. By that time, though, all Northern slaves had been set free, though many preferred to stay with the families that had once owned them.

Lincoln, Chamberlain wrote, was accompanied by Fillmore, his secretary and a few guards. Mrs. Lincoln remained in Buffalo.

At some point during the night of Feb. 17, fire broke out in an upstairs bedroom of the 17-room estate. Employees were summoned and a horseman took off to Alexander to summon firemen.

Lincoln used an ax to enter the burning room, where a young black boy died in the fire.

Chamberlain writes that Mr. and Mrs. Fillmore and the Chamberlains returned to Buffalo on a midnight train. Lincoln spent the night and re-joined his train early the morning of Feb. 18 before it entered Batavia.

Lincoln spent about five minutes in Batavia before departing to Rochester.

"I'm skeptical," Cornelius said. "There are a lot of similar claims that have been made throughout the country. There's one small town south of Dallas where they claimed he made a visit. One gentleman wanted to put up a marker. I was able to undermine the story.

Another story claimed Lincoln visited Lawrence, Kan., a pioneer town known for being the center for the anti-slavery movement in the midwest.

Cornelius researched the claim and find it likely untrue.

"The fact is, we know his movements well," he said of Lincoln, who often had reporters following his every act.

He said he's looking forward to reading Chamberlain's claims and is thankful to Genesee County for the chance to add to the collection.

"It will be catalogued like any other book we have," he said. "This is a public library and anyone can come in and request to look at anything, except the Gettysburg Address."



PLACES LINCOLN SLEPT
(ILLINOIS)

DRAWER 12A

ILLINOIS IN GENERAL

